Please substitute the following claims:

Claim 25 (amended):

25. A method for suppressing or inhibiting IgE production, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.

Claim 30 (amended):

30. The method according to claim 25, wherein said mammalian interferon tau amino terminus is from a mammal selected from the group consisting of primate, ovine, and bovine.

Claim 31 (amended):

31. The method according to claim 25, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises amino acid residues from about amino acid residue 1 to about amino acid residue 27 of ovine interferon tau and amino acid residues from about amino acid residue 28 to about amino acid residue 166 of human interferon alpha.

Claim 33 (amended):

33. The method according to claim 25, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered to a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of IgE production.

Claim 35 (amended):

35. The method according to claim 33, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered by routes selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

Claim 36 (amended):

36. The method according to claim 35, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

Claim 37 (amended):

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

Claim 38 (amended):

38. The method according to claim 25, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered *in vitro*.

Claim 39 (amended):

39. The method according to claim 25, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.